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1. REPORT DATE 1972		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVERED 00-00-1972 to 00-00-1972	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Description of the Egg of Aedes (Levua) suvae Stone and Bohart (Diptera: Culicidae)			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER		
			5b. GRANT NUMBER		
			5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S)			5d. PROJECT NUMBER		
			5e. TASK NUMBER		
			5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, Department of Entomology, Washington, DC, 20012			8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)			10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)		
			11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 3	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

Description of the Egg of Aedes (Levua) suvae
Stone and Bohart (Diptera: Culicidae)¹

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The egg of Aedes (Levua) suvae Stone and Bohart is described for the first time herein. This is also the first description of the egg for the subgenus Levua Stone and Bohart. The following description is based on a single mature egg extracted from the abdomen of a museum specimen which possessed the following collection data on the labels: FIJI, Suva, 1955, C.B. Symes collector, genitalia preparation number T72.100 and SEAMP Accession Number 290. The nomenclature used in the description follows that of Kalpage and Brust (1958) and Craig and Horsfall (1960).

The exact nomenclatural status of the name suvae is in question and is discussed by Stone and Bohart (1944: 214), Belkin (1962: 399) and Stone (1963: 128).

DESCRIPTION OF THE EGG
(Figs. 1-2)

Shape (Fig. 1). Fusiform; anterior end broadly rounded, posterior end with a gradual taper; greatest diameter towards anterior third. Size. Length 480 microns; width at widest point 170 microns. Color. Dark brown. Chorion (Fig. 2). Cleared section of chorion in transmitted light shows a reticulation of spindle-shaped cells with 1-8 irregularly rounded cellules in each cell; cellules are somewhat depressed.

DISCUSSION

The egg of suvae has a similar shape to those of several species of Ochlerotatus Lynch Arribalzaga, notably Aedes barri Rueger and Aedes dianiaus Howard, Dyar and Knab. The chorion sculpturing of suvae is not similar to any of the described eggs in the genus Aedes Meigen and appears to be unique. However, this is purely speculative since only a small number of subgenera are known in the egg stage.

¹ This work was supported in part by Research Contract No. DA-49-193-MD-2672 from the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command, Office of the Surgeon General and carried out at the Southeast Asia Mosquito Project, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special thanks are expressed to Dr. Botha de Meillon, Principal Investigator, Southeast Asia Mosquito Project (SEAMP), and LTC Bruce F. Eldridge, Chief of the Department of Entomology, Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, for reviewing the manuscript. I am grateful to Dr. John N. Belkin, Department of Zoology, University of California at Los Angeles, for the loan of specimens of Aedes suvae and to Mr. Vichai Malikul, SEAMP, for preparing the illustrations. Appreciation is expressed to my wife, Mollie, for typing the drafts and to Miss Helle Starcke for typing the manuscript.

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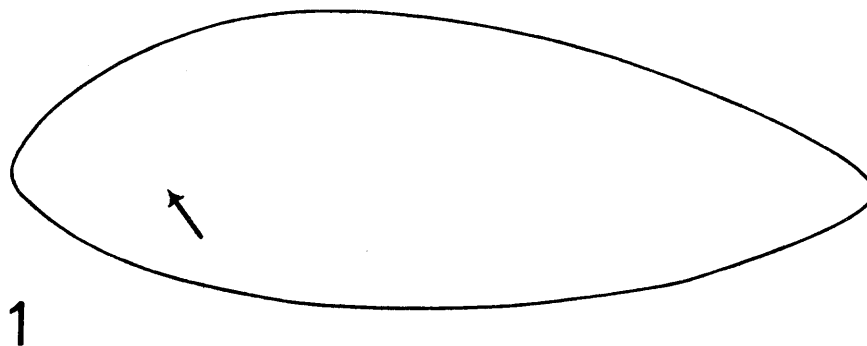
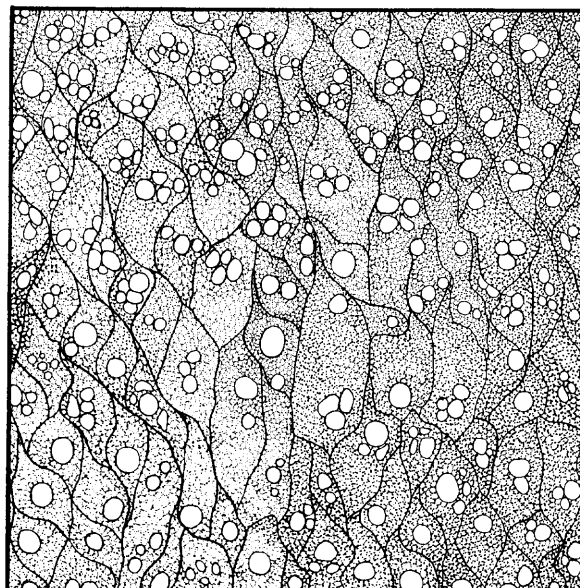


FIG. 1. Dorsoventral outline of Aedes (Levua) suvae egg illustrating the shape. Dorsal aspect is towards the top and anterior end is to the left.



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FIG. 2. Enlargement of egg chorion reticulation of Aedes (Levua) suvae from area indicated by the arrow in figure 1.

Richai Malikul